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To the Secretary of State

Sir

Washington M.T. Mar. 4. 1869

Inclosed I send you a copy of a communication made yesterday by the Governor of this Territory to the Legislature, by which you will see that a dissolution of that body has taken place, and that the Governor, agreeably to an intimation

heretofore given to the President retired on that day from office: the administration of the Government devolves of course on the Secretary. The present aspect of Territorial affairs, in connection with the military movements which I have planned, are contemplated in our quarter, are circumstances which call so loudly for a prompt arrangement to fill this vacancy, that I deem it unnecessary to mingle with them any "considerations" of my own personal accommodation in being specially relieved from the execution of such an accumulation of duty; and that I do not urge them with more force results from a thorough persuasion that the General Government has already taken the necessary measures to meet this case

With high consideration
& Esteem the honor to be
Yr. mo. ob. Servt
Thos. H. Williams

The Secretary of State.

Washington Mi. T. March 17th 1809

Sir

Your letter of the 21st ult. was received last mail.

I inclose you a commission for John Carter as a Justice of the peace in the county of Madison.

The Legislature having at their last session extended their laws to, and authorized the usual county to be taken, that in county, it is desirable that a complete organization, in relation to the appointment of officers, both civil, and military should take place as soon as possible. My total ignorance of the character in that settlement in branding it impossible to enable on this duty at present. You will therefore give me all the information you can collect, and on this occasion advise in concert with Messrs Freeman & Winston:

The first and most important object is the formation of a county court. To this end it is very desirable to know who are fit character to be appointed Justices of the quorum

I am Sir
Thos. H. Williams

Stephen Neale Esqr
Sheriff of Madison County.

To the Secretary of State.

Sir

Washington M. T. March 17th 1809

The copy of the Governors message to the General Assembly of the 3d inst. communicated to you in my letter of the 4th was taken from the rough draft instead of the corrected copy which was mislaid. The variation though not material in substance, am now the less desirous sufficient to require that a copy of that instrument in its perfect shape should be forwarded to the Department of State. You will receive it herewith inclosed.

I am with high consideration
& Have the honor to be
Your mo. ob. Servt
Tho. H. Williams

The Secretary of State.

To the Secretary of War.

Sir

Washington M. T. April 1st 1809

I have drawn on you this day in duplicate, payable at five days sight in favor of David Perry, for seventy five dollars, it being for salary due him as Interpreter to the Chactaws within this Government for the quarter ending on the 31st ult. On this character he has acted for several years under the late administration, and will be continued unless instruction to the contrary are received from the Department of War.

I am Sir with due respect
your mo ob
Tho. H. Williams

The Secretary of War

Sir

Washington April 10th 1809.

I have received your letter of the 2nd inst in which your enquire how the officers are to be appointed for the several companies composing the detachment called for by the General order of the 7th December last.

It has usually happened that where an entire company volunteers its services, and the offer is accepted the officers belonging to such company are also received with the rank they respectively bear.

If however the company which you furnish from your Regiment shall consist of men taken promiscuously either by draft or otherwise, from the different companies of your Regiment, it will be proper that you select the officers to command it having an eye to the selection to such character as are best qualified for actual service.

I can detain the post no longer, and therefore must defer answering that part of your letter which relates to the organization of a rifle company until such mail.

I am respectfully, Sir

Your Ob. Servt

Col. James Caller

Thos. H Williams

A Proclamation.

By Thomas H Williams, Secretary, exercising the powers, and performing the duties of Governor of the Mississippi Territory.

Whereas the Governor of the Mississippi Territory, did on the 3. day of March last, dissolve the General Assembly thereof, and it being expedient that a Legislature should be reorganized in the Territory without delay, I do therefore issue this Proclamation hereby authorizing, and directing the Sheriffs of the several

counties, within this Territory, to hold an election in their respective counties for nominating of the House of Representatives, on the eighteenth, and nineteenth days of May next, and to make due returns thereof agreeably to law.

And the said Sheriffs are hereby required, as well in relation to the manner of conducting the said election, as the number of members to be returned from their respective counties, to conform to the act entitled, "An act regulating elections," and an act entitled, "An act apportioning the Representatives from the several counties in this Territory, and for other purposes."—

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my Hand, and affixed the Seal of the Territory at the Town of Washington the tenth day of April in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the thirty third.

Seal

Thomas H. Williams

To The Secretary of State.

Sir

Washington M. T. April 19th 1809

On the fourth of March last I stated to you that the Governor of this Territory had on the preceding day retired from office, after having dissolved the General Assembly.

Being under the impression that the arrangement had been made in due time, to insure the arrival of his successor immediately, I felt unwilling to enter upon any duties which would admit of delay. I have likewise deemed it inadvisable to defer longer the preliminary steps necessary towards the reorganization of a Legislature in the Territory, and have therefore issued

a writ of election, a copy of which is herewith inclosed.

I shall in like manner proceed to place the Territory in that situation which may appear best calculated to promote its real interests, and to pave the way for a pleasant and prosperous administration for the gentleman who has been selected to superintend its direction.

I have the honor &c

Thomas H. Williams

The Secretary of State.

To the Secretary of War

Washington M.T. April 24th 1809

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th ult° addressed to the Governor of this Territory, containing instructions in relation to the execution of an act of Congress entitled, "An act further to amend the several acts for the establishment, and regulation of the Treasury, War, and Navy Departments"

With high consideration

I have the honor to be

Y. Mo. ob. Sert

Tho. H. Williams

The Secretary of War.

To the Secretary of War

Washington. M.T. April 24th 1809

Sir

Benjamin Watkins, a citizen of this Territory has lately obtained a judgement against William Smith, formerly a citizen of this Territory also, but now resident among the Shawanoes. As no process from our courts can reach his property Mr. Watkins has applied to the Executive of this Territory for his aid as Superintendant of Indian affairs. Under the

impression that Mr. Dinsmore, the Choctaw agent, has received from the Department of late instructions on such points, the subject has been referred to him, but he informs me that he has no authority to take cognizance of the case, and further informs me that the creditor cannot obtain his money, altho' the debtor has property in his possession, sufficient for the purpose.

I inclose you a copy of the judgement, and respectfully suggest the propriety of clothing the agents with power to cause payment by delinquent debtors who have, or may take refuge in the Indian country

I have the honor to be
very respectfully
Your Mo. Ob. Servt.
Thomas H. Williams

The Secretary of War

Sir Washington City April 24th 1809

In relation to the recovery of the amount of your judgement against William Smith I have enquired of Mr. Dinsmore, the agent whether he had power to act in the business, and he informs me he has not; and possessing none myself, I could only refer the subject to the Secretary of War, which I have accordingly done this day, and have forwarded to him a copy of the judgement you left in my possession. I am respectfully

Your Ob. Servt.
Tho. H. Williams

Mr. Benjamin Watkins.

Sir

Washington M.T. May 8. 1809

I enclose you commissions agreeably to the recommendations contained in your letter of the 28 ult.o.

Upon an examination of my files I do not find any nomination for officers of a rifle company — it will therefore be necessary that you send me on a list of the persons to be appointed.

The threatening aspect of the creek Indians in your neighborhood will be attended to. Mr. Brinsmead will proceed shortly to that quarter, and will keep a strict eye over them, and should there be any appearance of danger to the inhabitants measures will be taken for their security. In the mean while it will be necessary to impress the settlers with the importance of conducting themselves in a temperate, and discreet manner towards the Indians.

I am very respectfully
Sir
Your obt. Servt.
Thos H. Williams

Col. James Caller.

Sir

Washington M.T. May 9. 1809

Jonathan Davis, Surveyor of the Port of Natchez died a few days ago. As it is necessary that this vacancy should be filled as early as possible, I deem it my duty to make to you this communication

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your obt. Servt.
Thos. H. Williams

The Secretary
of the Treasury.

Tho. H. Williams Secretary of the Mississippi Territory, exercising the powers and performing the duties of Governor thereof.

To whom it may concern.

Be it known that Johnson Lea Esquire is hereby authorized and empowered to administer all oaths of office required by law to the several officers who may hereafter be appointed within the County of Amite and Territory aforesaid

Given under my hand at the Town of Washington the 21st day of May 1809.

Tho. H. Williams

Washington Mt. May 23d 1809.

Sir

Agreeably to the list contained in your letter of the 10th instant, I now inclose your commissions for the Captains, and subalterns to complete your Regiment.

As those commissions bear contemporaneous dates, you will be guided in adjusting the regimental rank of the officers of equal grade by the 5th section of the act, intituled "An act to organize the militia

The appointment of an adjutant is yet to be made, You are cautious and circumspect, as well as the discipline of the regiment depends essentially upon a judicious choice of this officer, that I feel unwilling to accept the business, ignorant as I am of the characters in your quarter, without a specific recommendation from yourself. In the execution of this trust I calculate on your usual judgment

and discrimination

I am respectfully
Yr. Ob. Sert
Thos. H. Williams

Col. W. R. Richardson

Washington Mi. June. 5. 1809

Sir

I have received your letter of the 14th ult. in which you have offered your resignation as Attorney General for the County and district of Washington.

While I lament the loss of your services in that character, I am extremely glad to find that we so cordially agree in relation to the person who is best fitted for your successor. I have accordingly inclosed to you a commission for Lemuel Henry to whom on the delivery thereof you will be pleased to communicate such information with respect to the business of the office as will enable him to enter on its duties with ease and promptitude.

I am respectfully
Yr. Ob. Sert
Thos. H. Williams

Nicholas Perkins Esq.

A Proclamation

By Thomas H. Williams. Secretary of the Mississippi Territory, exercising the powers, and performing the Duties of Governor thereof.

In consequence of a dissolution of the General Assembly of this Territory on the third day of March last, by the late Governor, it becomes necessary that a meeting of the House of Representatives should take place as early as possible, for the purpose of nominating a Legislative Council. To this end

I have deemed it expedient to issue this my proclamation hereby requiring the attendance of each of the members Elected to compose that branch of the Legislature at the Town of Washington on the first monday in July next.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of the Territory at the Town of Washington this 5th day of June in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and nine, and of the independence of the United States of America the 33d

Tho: H. Williams

Washington: June. 6. 1809

Sir

Mr. Joseph McCraven, a citizen of Claiborne County is desirous of occupying one of the vacant stands in the Choctaw country. From authorities which I greatly respect it is stated that he is a man of integrity and economy deportment and possesses generally those qualifications which are deemed the best pledges for the correctness of his conduct in such a situation. Under these impressions I feel disposed in entering my suffrage in favour of his pretensions

I am respectfully

Yo Ob Sv

Tho: H. Williams

Silas Dinsmoor Esq
U.S. Agt to the Chactaws

Sir

Washington M.T. June 14 1809

You are hereby authorized, and empowered to administer to William Winston, Clerk of the County Court of Madison the oaths of office required by law, and to receive from him a bond with sufficient sureties for the faithful discharge of his duties. This bond you will forward to my office without delay.

I am respectfully

Yr. Ob. Sv.

Thos. H. Williams

Stephen Neale Esq.

Washington M.T. June. 14 1809

Sir

I have received your letter of the 27th April in which you express the embarrassment you are under with respect to qualifying yourself as Clerk of the County Court of Madison. To obviate those difficulties I have authorized Stephen Neale Esq Sheriff of the county to administer to you the oaths of office required by law, and to receive your bond for a due execution of the duties of your office.

As soon as the Governor arrives, it is probable one of us will visit your settlement, as I see no other way in which the county can be satisfactorily organized.

I am with respect

Thos. H. Williams

Williams Winston Esq.

Washington June 21. 1809

David Perry
Interpreter to the Chactaws.

Reports have lately reached me that some Chactaws belonging to the lower towns have it in view to commit depredations on the frontiers of Amite County. Altho' these rumors are not of such a character as to warrant any immediate military movements on our part, it is still deemed prudent to adopt speedy measures for ascertaining their truth. To this end you will immediately repair to the Indian boundary on the Homochitto, and continue your route from thence along the line to the Tunica track and use every possible exertion to learn the real state of facts.

If you should fall in with any Indians on your way, you may explain to them the object of your tour, and should any of them manifest a hostile disposition you will state to them explicitly that while the United States are sincerely disposed to preserve a peaceful intercourse with all nations both red and white, they are at the same time firmly resolved to repel the aggressions of both, and that should any mischief be done to the inhabitants of this Territory, the authors shall receive prompt and signal punishment.

You will report to me as soon as possible the results of your enquiries on this business.

Thos. H. Williams

A Copy of the foregoing Journal from page 330 was this day transmitted to the Department of State.

July 1. 1809.

Wm. Henry Harrison
Secretary of the Ill. Territory